

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PRS-01 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 SP-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 /041 R

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P R 282204Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:CASC,PFOR, NL, TZ, CG

SUBJECT: MAY 28 PRESS BRIEFING ON KIDNAPPED STUDENTS IN
TANZANIA

1. FOLLWOING PORTION OF MAY 28 DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING
TRANSCRIPT DEALS WITH STUDENTS KIDNAPPED IN TANZANIA:

Q. BOB, I AM SURE YOU SAW THIS DAR ES SALAAM STORY ON
THE AP WIRE EARLIER TODAY, QUOTING AN UNIDENTIFIED
U.S. OFFICIAL SAYING THAT THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT IS DOING
"NOTHING SUBSTANTIVE" TO HELP THE KIDNAPPED KIDS. IS
THIS CORRECT?

A. NO, IT IS NOT. FROM THE BEGINNING OF THIS TRAGIC
INCIDENT, WE HAVE HAD THE COOPERATION OF THE ZAIRE GOVERN-
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MENT. WE HAVE BEEN IN REGULAR AND CONTINUING CONTACT
WITH THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT,
AND WE ARE CONTINUING TO CONSULT WITH THE ZAIRE GOVERN-
MENT WITH RESPECT TO FURTHER STEPS.

Q. IS THAT ALL -- I'M SORRY.

A. I JUST WANTED TO POINT OUT THAT THIS SAME QUESTION WAS RAISED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY IN DAR ES SALAAM WITH AMBASSADOR CARTER; AND HE POINTED OUT THAT OUR AMBASSADOR IN KINSHASA, DEANE HINTON, IS IN ALMOST DAILY CONTACT WITH THE ZAIRE FOREIGN MINISTER.

Q. WHERE IS BEVERLY, IN TANZANIA?

A. HE IS IN TANZANIA, RIGHT NOW -- BEV CARTER.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT, SPECIFICALLY, THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT IS DOING?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY PRECISE INFORMATION AS TO WHAT THEY ARE DOING. I DO KNOW THAT WE ARE IN CONSULTATION WITH THEM.

Q. WELL, THERE SEEMS TO BE A DISTINCTION THERE BETWEEN THEIR BEING HAPPY TO TALK TO US AND THEIR ACTUALLY GOING OUT AND DOING ANYTHING. THE STORY WHICH HE CITES

IMPLIES THAT THEY MIGHT BE TALKING TO US BUT THEY ARE NOT DOING ANYTHING. NOW DO YOU KNOW IF THEY ARE DOING ANYTHING?

A. I CAN'T RESPOND TO ANY SPECIFIC ACTIONS THAT THEY ARE TAKING.

Q. BUT YOU DO DENY THAT THEY ARE NOT DOING ANYTHING. IS THAT IT?

A. WHAT I WAS DENYING, HENRY--IF I UNDERSTOOD THE QUESTION -- WAS THAT A U.S. EMBASSY OFFICER IN DAR ES-

SALAAM IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT WE WERE UNHAPPY OVER THE COOPERATION WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT.

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Q. ARE YOU DENYING THAT SOMEONE SAID THIS, OR ARE YOU DENYING THAT BEVERLY CARTER SAID IT PUBLICLY?

A. I AM DENYING THAT WE ARE UNHAPPY OVER THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT'S COOPERATION.

Q. THE QUOTATION IS THAT THEY ARE DOING NOTHING SUBSTANTIVE. NOW I'M TRYING TO FIND OUT: ARE THEY ONLY DOING ANYTHING -- SUBSTANTIVE -- OR ARE THEY JUST SIMPLY CHATTING WITH US IN A FRIENDLY WAY DOWN IN THEIR CAPITAL?

A. THIS IS A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION INVOLVING THE

SAFETY AND RETURN OF THREE STUDENTS, TWO OF WHOM ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS; AND WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT, NOT ONLY WITH THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT BUT WITH THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT ON HOW TO BRING ABOUT THE SAFE RELEASE OF THESE STUDENTS.

- AND THERE HAVE BEEN DEVELOPMENTS IN TANZANIA, AS YOU KNOW. THESE HAVE BEEN REPORTED. ONE STUDENT WAS RETURNED. IT CONTAINS SOME DEMANDS BY THE KIDNAPPER. AND IN ALL OF THIS WE ARE, OBVIOUSLY, IN VERY CLOSE CONSULTATION TO DECIDE THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION TO TAKE TO BRING ABOUT THEIR RELEASE.

Q. SO IT SOUNDS LIKE, IN EFFECT, THEN, YOU ARE NOT DENYING OR REPUDIATING THE SUBSTANCE OF THAT STORY. YOU JUST DON'T WANT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATED WITH IT. IS THAT THE POINT?

A. I THINK I WILL JUST LEAVE IT WHERE I ANSWERED ENDRE'S QUESTION.

Q. BOB, IN THESE TALKS AND CONTACTS, HAS THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT SAID IT WOULD DO ANYTHING?

A. I HAVE NOT BEEN BRIEFED ON THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT.

Q. JUST TO TAKE A PARALLEL EXAMPLE: IN LAOS, THE GOVERNMENT FOR SOME TIME SAID IT WOULD SEND THE INTERIOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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MINISTRY TO THE SAVANNAKHET -- AND, INDEED, IT FINALLY DID EVEN THOUGH IT TOOK SOME TIME.

HAS THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT GIVEN ANY INDICATION IT HAS ANY IDEAS ABOUT DOING ANYTHING?

A. I DO NOT KNOW. I HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED AS TO THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR CONVERSATIONS.

Q. WERE YOU NOT BRIEFED ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE DOING -- THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT IS DOING?

A. I DON'T HAVE THE SUBSTANCE OF THOSE EXCHANGES.

Q. WELL, THE SAME STORY SAYS THAT THE SAME DIPLOMAT SAID THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT "IS PRETTY UPSET," BECAUSE THEY HAD ALREADY DECIDED AGAINST PAYING ANY RANSOM. ARE YOU?

A. AGAIN, THAT QUESTION WAS PUT TO AMBASSADOR CARTER

YESTERDAY, AND HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE THOUGHT IN HIS JUDGMENT THE TANZANIANS APPRECIATED THE DIFFICULTY OF THE PROBLEM AND THEY WERE TRYING TO WORK OUT WAYS TO BRING THE SAFE RELEASE OF THE STUDENTS.

Q. BUT IN FACT --

A. AND THAT HE HAD BEEN SATISFIED WITH THE COOPERA-

TION THAT HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO HIM BY THE TANZANIAN AUTHORITIES. SO THAT'S IN CONFLICT WITH THE STATEMENT IN THE ARTICLE ATTRIBUTED TO AN UNNAMED PERSON.

Q. ALL RIGHT, LET'S FORGET ABOUT THE UNNAMED PERSON.

A. YES.

Q. BUT ARE YOU IN AGREEMENT WITH THIS TANZANIA --

A. I AM IN AGREEMENT WITH AMBASSADOR BEVERLY CARTER.

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Q. WHO SAYS THAT THEY ARE COOPERATIVE.

A. YES. HE IS SATISFIED WITH THE COOPERATION HE HAS BEEN RECEIVING.

Q. BUT IS HE SATISFIED WITH THE DECISION NOT TO PAY ANY RANSOM?

OR, ARE YOU SATISFIED -- I DON'T CARE ABOUT BEVERLY, WHETHER HE IS SATISFIED OR NOT -- BUT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER YOU ARE -- THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS.

A. YOU KNOW OUR POSITION IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION IS THAT THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY TO BRING ABOUT THE RELEASE OF THE STUDENTS RESTS WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT AND IN THIS CASE, THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT.

AND WE ARE NOT GOING TO COMMENT, SPECIFICALLY IN PUBLIC, ON VARIOUS POSITIONS THAT THEY TAKE. WE HAVE

EMPHASIZED TO THEM THE IMPORTANCE OF BRINGING ABOUT THE RETURN OF THESE STUDENTS. AND AMBASSADOR CARTER HAS REPORTED THAT HE IS SATISFIED THAT THEY ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE.

Q. THIS IS -- "BEING UPSET" IS SOMEWHAT SUSPICIOUS TO ME BECAUSE AS FAR AS I CAN RECALL, THERE IS A PRINCIPLE HERE THAT NO RANSOM SHOULD BE PAID -- WHETHER IT'S IN THE

UNITED STATES OR ANYWHERE ELSE.

DOES THIS PRINCIPLE STILL STAND?

A. THAT IS CERTAINLY A PRINCIPLE IN U.S. POLICY, AS FAR AS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED. BUT WE CERTAINLY HAVEN'T -- WE DON'T TELL OTHER GOVERNMENTS HOW TO CONDUCT THEIR AFFAIRS OR TO BRING ABOUT THE OBJECTIVES THAT WE BOTH SHARE.

Q. WELL WAIT A MINUTE. EVERY TIME SOME TERRORIST ATTACK OCCURS, DOESN'T THE UNITED STATES REPEAT THAT IN

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PRINCIPLE WE SHOULDN'T DEAL WITH TERRORISTS?

AND YOU DON'T CONSIDER THAT "ADVICE" TO A GOVERNMENT?

A. I THINK OUR GENERAL PRINCIPLE ON THE QUESTION OF DEALING WITH TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS OR PEOPLE THAT KIDNAP PEOPLE IS WELL KNOWN.

WE NOW HAVE A SPECIFIC SITUATION THAT WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH. WE ARE TRYING TO WORK OUT -- WE ARE

TALKING WITH THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT TO BRING ABOUT THE SAFE RELEASE OF THESE STUDENTS. AND I REALLY DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO GET INTO AN EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF THIS KIND AT THIS TIME.

Q. THEN YOU DON'T APPLAUD WHAT THEY ARE DOING?

A. PARDON ME?

A. YOU THEREFORE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO APPLAUD WHAT THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT IS DOING IN STANDING AGAINST TERRORISM?

A. WHAT WE ARE TALKING WITH THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT IS HOW TO BRING ABOUT THE SAFE RELEASE OF THESE STUDENTS.

Q. WOULD IT BE THE UNITED STATES STAND, THEN, AGAINST SUCH ACTS OF TERRORISM IF AMERICANS WERE NOT INVOLVED?

A. OBVIOUSLY, OUR INTEREST IN THIS CASE IS BECAUSE AMERICANS ARE INVOLVED.

Q. BUT I THINK THAT WHAT MARILYN SAID, THAT ON OTHER

OCCASIONS THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS MADE A VERY FORMAL STATEMENT AGAINST GIVING IN TO TERRORIST DEMANDS.

A. WE SPEAK FOR OURSELVES AS A GOVERNMENT. BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I THINK IF YOU LOOK AT THAT STATEMENT, WE DON'T LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PRESUME TO TELL OTHER GOVERNMENTS WHAT THEY SHOULD DO IN THIS PARTICULAR AREA.

Q. WELL, AS I SAID, WOULD IT BE THE UNITED STATES STAND IF AMERICANS WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THIS KIDNAPPING-- IF IT HAD BEEN EUROPEANS ONLY, WOULD WE HAVE TAKEN THIS STAND AGAINST TERRORISM?

A. I HAVE RESTATED THE PRINCIPLE. I HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THAT PRINCIPLE IS THE CASE IN GENERAL TERMS. AND I HAVE ALSO SAID THAT BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IT IS THE PRIMARY

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT TO BRING ABOUT THE RELEASE, THAT WE ARE NOT GOING TO COMMENT PUBLICLY ON WHAT ACTIONS THAT GOVERNMENT TAKES TO BRING ABOUT THE RELEASE OF THESE PEOPLE.

Q. BOB, THERE IS AN EDITORIAL IN ONE OF THE TANZANIAN PAPERS TODAY, WHICH MAY BE OFFICIALLY INSPIRED, DISCLAIMING ANY TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY AT THIS STAGE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE KIDNAPEES AND KIDNAPERS WERE ON FOREIGN SOIL.

HAVE YOU ANY OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OR HAS THE EMBASSY HAD ANY OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION, REFLECTING THAT POSITION?

A. NOT THAT I AM AWARE OF.

Q. ARE YOU AWARE OF THE EDITORIAL?

A. I AM AWARE OF THE EDITORIAL.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE EDITORIAL?

A. I THINK WHAT I HAVE SAID BEFORE REALLY STATES OUR POSITION ON WHERE WE THINK THE RESPONSIBILITY IS.

Q. WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE WAS THAT THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY RESTS WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT?

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A. THAT IS RIGHT.

Q. YOU STARTED OUT DENYING THE QUESTION WHICH IS BASED ON THE COOPERATION OF THE ZAIRE GOVERNMENT, WASN'T THAT IT?

A. THAT IS HOW IT STARTED, YES.

Q. AND THEN WE MOVED INTO TANZANIA.

A. TANZANIA, RIGHT.

Q. WHEN DID WE MOVE INTO TANZANIA?

A. WELL, THERE WAS A QUESTION THAT RELATED TO TANZANIA SOMEWHERE IN THE EXCHANGE.

Q. THAT'S ALL RIGHT, I'LL FIND IT. DON'T WORRY.

Q. WHICH IS THE HOST GOVERNMENT, THEN, WHERE THE GUERRILLAS AND THE KIDNAPEES NOW ARE, OR THE ONES FROM WHICH THEY WERE SNATCHED?

A. THE PEOPLE WERE KIDNAPED FROM TANZANIA AND THE PERSON THAT WAS RELEASED WAS SENT BY THE KIDNAPERS TO DAR-ES-SALAAM TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE TANZANIAN AUTHORITIES.

Q. SO YOU ARE HOLDING THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE?

A. WE ARE IN CONSULTATION WITH BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND I AM SURE THAT TANZANIA IS IN CONSULTATION WITH ZAIRE AS WELL. BUT OBVIOUSLY THE FOCUS HAS BEEN IN DAR-ES-SALAAM WHERE THE DEMANDS WERE DELIVERED.

Q. ARE YOU WILLING TO WIDEN THE QUESTION OF RESPONSIBILITY TO ZAIRE BECAUSE THE KIDNAPERS ARE, IT APPEARS, ZAIRIAN CITIZENS?

A. THEIR DEMANDS WERE DIRECTED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TANZANIA, AND I REALLY THINK THE QUESTION OF RESPONSIBILITY ISN'T WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT. WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT WITH THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE
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AND WHAT WE ARE ALL IN AGREEMENT IS: TO DEVISE MEANS AND ACTIONS THAT WOULD PERSUADE THE KIDNAPERS TO RELEASE THE PEOPLE THEY HAVE TAKEN AS SAFELY AND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

Q. BOB, GOING BACK TO LARS QUESTION: HE SAID THAT THE EDITORIAL APPEARED TO BE, OR COULD BE, OFFICIALLY INSPIRED.

DO OUR CONTACTS WITH THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT SUGGEST THAT
THEY ARE CONSIDERING THEMSELVES THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY IN
THIS ISSUE?

A. I AM NOT AWARE THAT THEY HAVE DISCLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY.

Q. OR THAT THEY'RE TRYING TO SHIFT IT?

A. I THINK THEIR ACTIONS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. WE ARE IN
CONSULTATION WITH THEM. AND WE OBVIOUSLY ARE TRYING TO
BRING ABOUT THE RELEASE OF THESE PEOPLE. I THINK THEY
ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR KIDNAPPING AND THE FACT THAT THEY
STILL HAVEN'T BEEN RELEASED. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, CITIZEN PROTECTION, WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, TERRORISTS, NEGOTIATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE124094
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/P:JMPOPE:ADR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 NA
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750186-1104
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505104/baaaakzt.tel
Line Count: 394
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: CASC, PINS, US, TZ, NL, CG, (SMUTS, BARBARA), (SMITH, KENNETH STEVE), (HUNTER, CARRIE)
To: DAR ES SALAAM
KINSHASA
BUJUMBURA INFO NAIROBI
THE HAGUE
BRUSSELS
Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006